



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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## **ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY HONORED AS 'OUTSTANDING PROSECUTOR'**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver received the Outstanding Prosecutor for 2005 Award from the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program.

Midwest HIDTA officials selected Oliver for the honor because of his success in coordinating and directing local and federal law enforcement in the investigation "Operation: Icy Hot," as well as for his work on several other significant narcotics conspiracy prosecutions. Oliver was selected from a pool of his peers in Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, North Dakota and South Dakota.

"Operation: Icy Hot" is a massive OCDETF investigation, involving nearly 100 individuals who have been importing high-quality methamphetamine into the Kansas City metropolitan area. Among the defendants charged in the case, nearly 40 already have been convicted and several have been sentenced for their role in the methamphetamine conspiracy.

Oliver joined the U.S. Attorney's Office as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in 1997 and has since prosecuted more than 170 cases involving more than 450 defendants on behalf of the office.

"As a result of Mike Oliver's persistence and dedication in this office, literally hundreds of drug dealers have been taken off the streets of our community," Graves said. "I am pleased that HIDTA selected Mike for this award. His work in this office is very deserving of the recognition."

Midwest HIDTA is part of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. HIDTA's mission is to reduce drug availability in critical and identified markets by creating and supporting intelligence-driven enforcement task forces aimed at eliminating or reducing domestic drug

trafficking and its harmful consequences through enhancing and helping to coordinate drug trafficking control efforts among federal, state, and local enforcement agencies. Central to this effort is the formation and enhancement of enforcement task forces.

In prosecuting “Operation: Icy Hot,” Oliver partnered the U.S. Attorney’s Office with two task forces – the Jackson County Drug Task Force and the Metro Meth Task Force, Graves said. Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement have played instrumental roles in the investigation.

“Oliver worked diligently to bring these agencies together to ensure that the information in this case was shared so that a comprehensive picture of the narcotics organization could be developed,” Graves said. “The cooperation among all the agencies in this case has been key to the success of ‘Operation: Icy Hot,’ which makes all the partners in this case worthy of recognition.”

Oliver is the second prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney’s Office to receive Midwest HIDTA’s Outstanding Prosecutor Award in recent history. Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall D. Eggert received the honor in 2002.

Prior to working for the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Oliver worked as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Buchanan County, Mo., from 1991 through 1997. He is a graduate of William Jewell College and a 1993 graduate of the University of Missouri – Kansas City Law School.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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